

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Monday , January 29, 2018 • 8:00 a.m. • 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Stewart E. Barlow, House Chair
Rep. Scott H. Chew, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Don L. Ipson
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson
Rep. Stephen G. Handy

Rep. Karen Kwan
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Lee B. Perry
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers
Rep. Keven J. Stratton
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Members Absent:

Rep. Susan Duckworth

Staff Present:

Mr. Ivan D. Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Alexander R. Wilson, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Katiemarie Harmon, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

1 . Department of Environmental Quality Base Budget

Mr. Alex Wilson, Fiscal Analyst, Office of Legislative and Fiscal Affairs (LFA), presented on the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) base budget.

Mr. Wilson presented on, "State Funds Reduction Concepts Issue Brief."

[2a-DEQ, State Funds Reduction Concepts](#)

Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, DEQ, responded to questions from Rep. Sagers.

Mr. Brent Everett, Director, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation, DEQ, responded to questions.

Rep. Stratton asked Mr. Wilson where the line items are located.

Rep. Noel asked about dedicated credits.

Ms. Marie Owens, Director, Division of Drinking Water, responded to Rep. Noel's question.

Mr. Alan Matheson, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, presented on the department.

[2b-DEQ Presentation](#)

Mr. Matheson explained the x-ray program.

Rep. Christofferson asked Mr. Matheson a question about user fees, outsourcing, and competition.

Sen. Okerlund asked Mr. Matheson about compliance issues.

Rep. Stratton asked Mr. Matheson about the best ways to reduce expenditures and keep costs low to the public.

Rep. Handy commented on the success initiatives.

Rep. Sagers commented that charging dentists offices \$50 would help cover the cost of inspections.

Ms. Owens gave a presentation entitled, "Drinking Water Programs."

Rep. Noel commented on the recent water shed problems and the Community Impact Board (CIB) money.

Sen. Dabakis commented on the CIB money.

Rep. Noel responded to Sen. Dabakis' comment about the CIB money.

Mr. Everett gave a presentation entitled, "Environmental Response and Remediation."

Ms. Erica Gaddis, Director, Division of Water Quality, DEQ, presented on Water Quality.

Sen. Dayton asked Ms. Gaddis about selling the algae.

Mr. Bird gave a presentation entitled, "Air Quality."

Sen. Hinkins asked Mr. Bird why the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is preferred to DEQ.

Rep. Kwan asked Mr. Bird about carrot grants.

Mr. Scott Anderson, Director, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, DEQ, presented on Waste Management and Radiation Control.

Rep. Sagers asked if the federal government was paying for the cleanup in Tooele.

2 . Forestry, Fire, and State Lands Base Budget

Mr. Djambov gave a presentation on Forestry, Fire, and State Lands Base Budget, and "Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, State Funds Reduction Concepts."

[3a-Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, State Funds Reduction Concepts](#)

Mr. Brian Cottam, Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, gave a presentation on fire.

[3b-FFSL Presentation](#)

Rep. Noel commented that there is a fuel burn-up problem.

Mr. Cottam continued his presentation on fire.

Sen. Hinkins asked about the budget appropriations.

Sen. Dabakis asked Mr. Cottam about the cost of the Brian Head fire and the federal support.

Mr. Cottam continued his presentation on fire, and distributed, "Brian Head Fire Fact Sheet."

[3d-Brian Head Fire Fact Sheet](#)

Rep. Watkins asked Mr. Cottam where the fire departments personnel are from.

Sen. Hinkins asked Mr. Cottam a question about firefighters equipment.

Rep. Handy asked Mr. Cottam about the funding.

Mr. Cottam explained the new Wildfire Management System.

Rep. Chew asked Mr. Cottam a question about consolidation.

Rep. Albrecht asked if the fire had hit Mammoth Creek or Duck Creek.

Rep. Noel commented that because of logging Mammoth Creek and Duck Creek were protected from the fire.

3 . Oil, Gas, & Mining Base Budget

Mr. Djambov introduced the line item in the base budget bill for the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, and presented the document "Oil, Gas, and Mining, State Funds Reduction Concepts."

[4-Oil, Gas, and Mining, State Funds Reduction Concepts](#)

Mr. John Baza, Director, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, made a presentation.

Mr. Baza showed a video entitled, "Oil, Gas, and Mining in Utah." The video is available on their website.

Rep. Albrecht asked about the number of permits available. Mr. Baza showed that there has been an increase in the number of permits available.

Rep. Christofferson asked about the efficiency of the division in distributing permits.

Mr. Baza explained the division's performance measures.

Mr. Baza gave a presentation on the abandoned mine reclamation near Eureka, Utah.

Sen. Hinkins asked about abandoned coal mines.

Rep. Kwan asked a question about production.

Sen. Dayton asked Mr. Baza about the percent of energy generated in the State, and fiscal options for reductions.

Sen. Dabakis asked Mr. Baza about the future of coal.

Rep. Albrecht commented that coal is still needed until renewable energy is viable on a large scale.

Rep. Noel commented that the demand for coal has decreased; however, there is still a demand.

Sen. Hinkins commented that coal is in high demand for hydrogen.

Sen. Dayton commented coal is needed for the creation of wind turbines and solar panels.

Sen. Ipson commented on Utah exporting coal globally.

Mr. Baza continued his presentation.

Sen. Hinkins commented he has heard great things about the agency.

4 . Wildlife Resources Base Budget

Mr. Djambov presented on the Division of Wildlife Resources base budget, and "Wildlife Resources, State Funds Reduction Concepts."

[5-Wildlife Resources, State Funds Reduction Concepts](#)

Rep. Noel asked a question about the car fleet and the aquatic section.

Mr. Mike Fowlkes, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), responded to a question from Rep. Noel about buying fish.

Mr. Fowlkes gave an introduction to DWR and presented a video about the agency.

Sen. Hinkins asked about a bird raising program.

Mr. Fowlkes continued his presentation.

MOTION: Rep. Watkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 5 .

Yeas-14

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. K. Christofferson
Sen. J. Dabakis
Sen. M. Dayton
Rep. S. Handy
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. P. Knudson
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. M. Noel
Rep. L. Perry
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-5

Rep. S. Duckworth
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. D. Sagers
Sen. E. Vickers

Senate Chair Hinkins adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.